

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of reducing [[the]] serum ~~level in a mammal~~ levels of any one or more of the following:

- a) cholesterol;
- b) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol relative to high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol;
- c) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol;
- d) very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) cholesterol;
- e) apolipoprotein B; ~~and~~ or
- f) triglycerides

~~by the ingestion of a composition containing~~ in a mammal comprising:

orally administering to said mammal a composition comprising β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95% β -casein A².

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

3. (currently amended) A method for treating any disease or disorder associated with ~~mammalian~~ serum total cholesterol levels, ~~LDL~~ low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels, apolipoprotein B levels, or triglyceride levels ~~by the ingestion of a composition containing~~ in a mammal, comprising:
orally administering to said mammal a composition comprising β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95% β -casein A².

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia hyperlipidemia, and atherosclerosis.

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the composition is a food or food product.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5 where the food or food product is milk or a product containing or processed from milk.

7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the composition is a dietary supplement.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 ~~where wherein~~ the dietary supplement is ~~a nutraceutical which is~~ ingested for optimizing ~~any one or more of the group consisting of performance during exercise~~ fitness, weight loss, weight gain, muscle building, ~~and~~ and/or muscle repair.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the composition is milk containing β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at last 95% β -casein A².

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9 where the β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the composition has been formed by ~~the addition of~~ adding an amount of β -casein A² sufficient to alter serum cholesterol levels and/or serum triglyceride levels in a human.

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 where the β -casein A² is obtained from the milk of bovine cattle or from the milk of yaks, buffalo, sheep or goats.

13-16. (canceled)